Welfare Scheme for Mine Workers

3897. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :

SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any welfare scheme for the mine workers in Northern India, particularly in U.P. and Bihar;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce group Insurance Scheme and also bring them under the purview of ESI Scheme;

(c) whether Government provide compensation to the mine workers in the event of death and injury due to accidents in mines; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the compensation provided during the year 1992-93 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) There are certain Welfare funds, namely, Limestone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund; Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund and Mica Labour Welfare Fund for providing welfare facilities like housing, health care-etc. to the mine workers. These are in operation in Bihar. However, in U. P., only Limestone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare fund is in operation.

(b) to (d) No Group Insurance Scheme is proposed to be introduced for mine workers. There is also no proposal to extend the provisions of the ESI Act to the mine workers. However, for employment related injuries resulting in death/disablement, the mine workers are covered under the Workmens' Compensation Act, 1923. Under the Act, compensation is paid by the employer. As the provisions of the W. C. Act are being administered by the respective State Governments/UT Admns., the details of the compensation provided during 1992-93 are not available.

Unemployment in the Country

3898. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of serious situation developing on unemployment front;

(b) what are the details for the last three years regarding the number of applicants of live register, number of registration made, vacancies notified, placement affected and vacancies notified as 2 percentage of registration during the period;

(c) what were the targets of employment generation for the period under reference and actual shortfall from the target, if any set for the current year; and

(d) what are the plans of the Government to deal with the serious problem of unemployment during the eighth five years plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Government is aware of the problem of unemployment in the country and its concern is reflected in the Eighth Five Year Plan Document.

(b) The details for the years 1990 to 1992 are given in the *Statement* enclosed.

(c) The Eighth Five Year Plan envisages creation of additional employment opportunities of the order of 8 to 9 million per year, on the average. No year-wise targets have been set in this ragard.

(d) Employment is a thrust area of the Eighth Five Year Plan. The plan emphasises the need for a high rate of economic growth, combined with faster growth of sectors, sub-sectors and areas which have relatively high employment potential for enhancing the pace of employment generation. Geographically and crop-wise deversified agricultural growth, development of wastelands and forestry, development of rural non-farm sector and rural infrastructure, faster growth of small and decentralised manufacturing and expansion of housing, are the basic elements of the employment-oriented growth strategy envisaged in the plan.